

THE INTERDENOMINATIONAL THEOLOGICAL CENTER

Senate Study Committee on Excellence, Innovation, and Technology

GA State Capitol

August 30, 2022

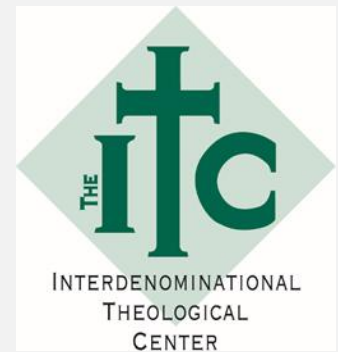
AT A GLANCE

- Established in 1958 with Roots to Late 1800's
- Only Historically-Black Theological School in Georgia
- Located in Atlanta University Center
- Accredited by Association of Theological Schools (ATS) and Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Accrediting (SACSCOC)
- Largest freestanding Historically Black Theological School in the U.S.



ITC LEGACY

- National Incubator for Social Justice + Faith Leadership
- Seedbed for Pioneering Religious and Theological Scholarship
- 1st Home of MLK Center for Nonviolent Social Change
- Leadership in Atlanta Student Movement
- Historic Convening Hub in Westside Atlanta
- Atlanta University Center Stakeholder





*“I came to ITC to learn how to
lead my people.”*

Rev. James Woodall,
former State President, NAACP- GA



DEGREE PROGRAMS:

- Master of Divinity (M.Div.)
- Master of Arts in Liturgical Arts and Culture (M.A.L.C.)
- Master of Arts in Religion and Education (M.A.R.E.)
- Doctor of Ministry (D. Min.)

SOCIAL IMPACT INITIATIVES

- Youth Hope Builders Academy
- Connecting With Hope Innovation Hub
- Thriving Prophetic Congregations
- Food and Land Security Institute
- Inter-Religious Roundtable on HIV/AIDS in Georgia
- Center for Black Women's Justice (BWCS)

The background of the slide is a colorful stained glass pattern. In the center, there is an illustration of a church building with a steeple, a cross on the roof, and a set of stairs leading to the entrance. The church is set against a large, arched stained glass window with yellow and orange tones. At the bottom of the slide, the legs and feet of several people are visible, suggesting a congregation.

Collective Black Membership of Historic Partner Denominations

Approximately 25 million

Historic Partnership with Five Christian Denominations

- Morehouse School of Religion (Baptist)
- Turner Theological Seminary (AME)
- Phillips School of Theology (CME)
- Gammon Theological Seminary (United Methodist)
- C.H. Mason Theological Seminary (COGIC)
- Richardson At-Large Fellowship and Lutheran Center
- Over 10 additional faith traditions among student body

“...practicing justice and peace through a liberating and transforming spirituality”

Preparing social sector leaders for institutions, organizations and faith communities that serve as hubs for spiritual and social impact.

ITC NEXUS OF THE BLACK CHURCH

ITC IMPACT

- **Preparing Leaders.** ITC prepares *prophetic problem solvers* for transformational leadership in the pulpit, parish and public square throughout GA and beyond.
 - Anchor institutions
 - First responders
 - Community care and quality
 - Wide array of fields and areas of leadership
- **Impact Initiatives.** ITC advances social impact initiatives focused on
 - Economic Development & Church
 - Empowerment of Women & Girls
 - Interreligious Response to Rise of HIV AIDS in GA
 - Youth Leadership and Anti-Violence
 - Food & Land Security
- **Campus Footprint.**
 - Redeveloping 10-acre campus in 30314 as social impact hub



WHAT IS ITC 2.0?

An aerial photograph of a multi-lane highway interchange. A large landslide of brown earth and rocks has occurred on the left side of the road, partially blocking the lanes. A green overhead highway sign is visible above the road. The surrounding area is covered in dense green trees and vegetation. The text "THE LANDSCAPE OF THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION" is overlaid in white capital letters on a semi-transparent dark band across the middle of the image.

THE LANDSCAPE OF THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION



ITC 2.0 Featured in Lilly Endowment 2021 Annual Report

Featured Story

Initiative Provides Resources for Theology Schools Seeking New Pathways

In 2021, Lilly Endowment approved 84 grants of \$500,000 to \$1 million each to theological schools across the United States and Canada in the second phase of its Pathways for Tomorrow Initiative. This three-phase initiative is designed to help theological schools strengthen and sustain their capacities to prepare and support pastoral leaders for Christian congregations.



[Read the full story](#)

2021 Annual Report:

Today's pastoral students are more diverse and preparing to minister to congregations with modern-day challenges.

“What has typically happened in theological education, in response to changing dynamics, is to reflexively change curriculum, look at our faculty, redesign classes,” Williams says. “Those are technical fixes when what is really needed is a change in institutional thinking. We have been thinking of symptoms, not systems.” —Matthew Wesley Williams, Interdenominational Theological Center

“...if the ITC’s mission and vision will have a future it will require a *top-to-bottom* overhaul of the institution.”

The conjoined educational and institutional models of the ITC were designed for a time that has long passed. The advancement and sustainability of ITC’s mission in the 21st century requires a redesign of its institutional model, governance, educational design and platform, and operations.

ITC 2.0 TASK FORCE (2019)



Top to Bottom Overhaul

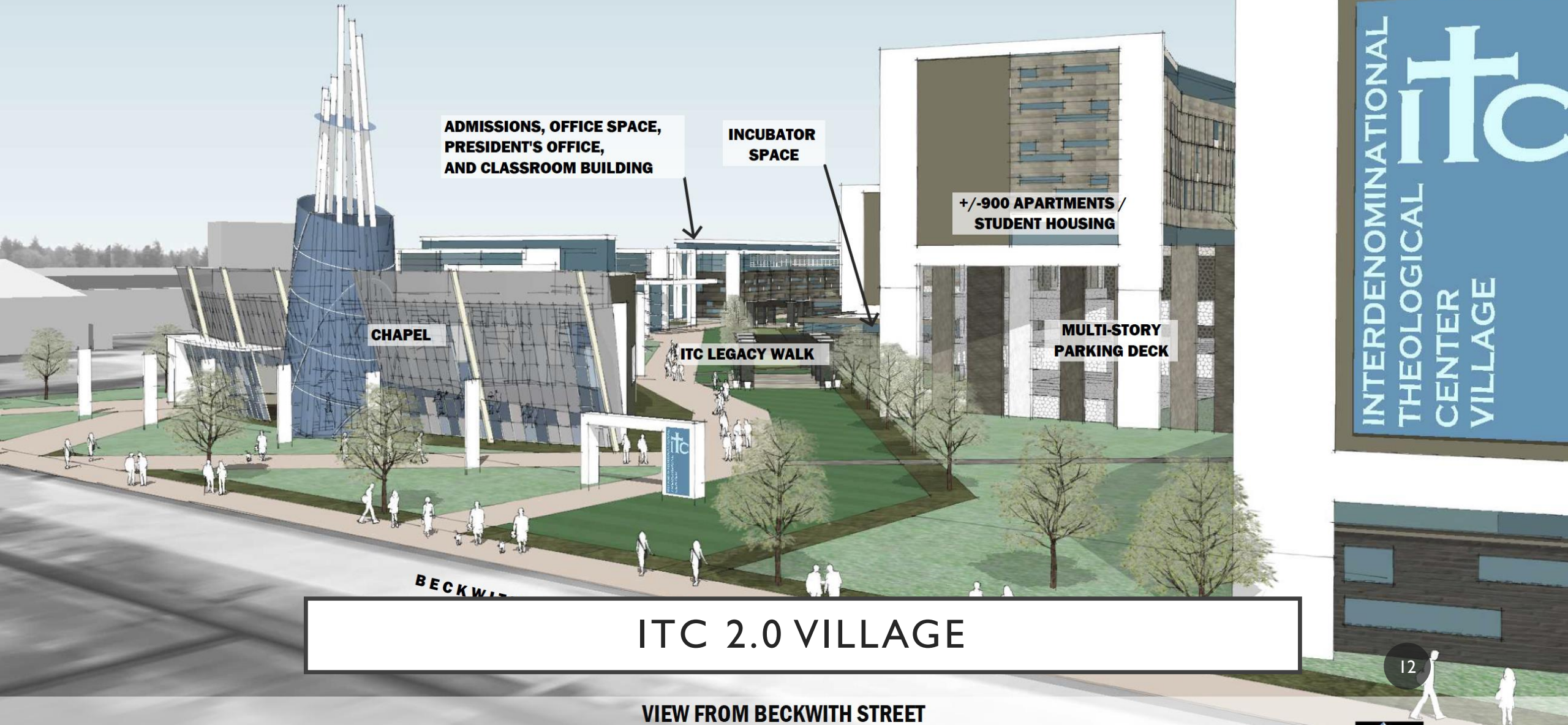
ITC 2.0

**Institutional
Model &
Governance**

**Educational
Design &
Platform**

Operations

LIVE-WORK-PLAY-PRAY-LEARN



ITC 2.0 VILLAGE

VIEW FROM BECKWITH STREET

CHALLENGES | NEEDS

- Affordability
 - Black Theological Student Debt + 12,000 Compared to White Peers
- Accessibility
 - Began Transition to Hybrid Model (Fall 2019)
 - Student Digital Divide (connectivity + hardware)
- (Under) Investment in Infrastructure
 - Technology Backbone
 - Deferred Maintenance
 - Limited Access to COVID Relief Funding

